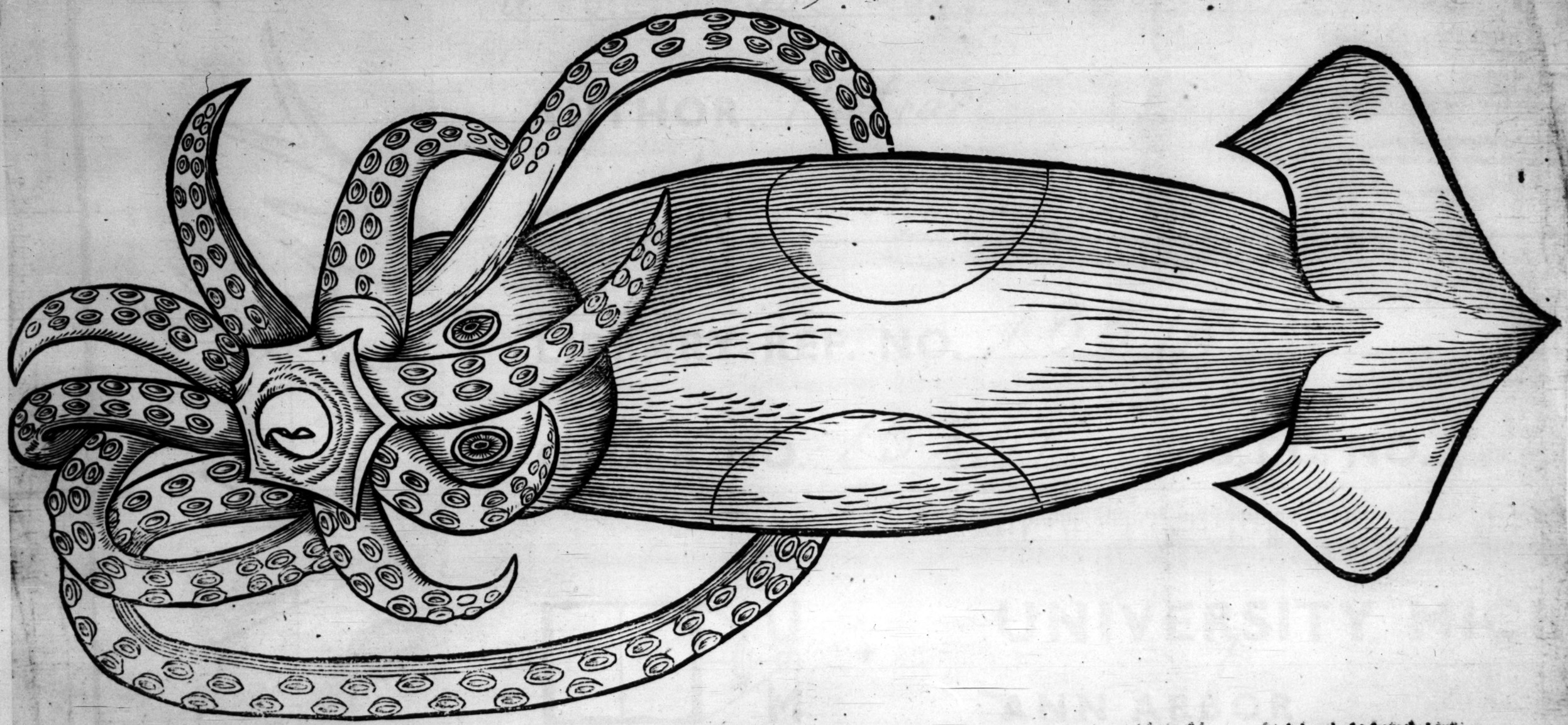
The discription of a rare or rather most monstrous fiche taken on the East cost of Holland the. xvii. of Nouember, Anno 1566.

The Workes of God how great and straunge they bi
I picture plaine behold heare may you see.



HEare thou hast (gentle frend) the picture shape and fashion of a fiche straūge and marualous taken (as his saide) in Holland, hauing on his finnes hard skales in forme much like the beggers dishes, which in that Contrie they were wont to weare in skorne & derision. his eies like an owle & mouthed as a Popin gaye his taile reede and lower cornered like to a prieستes Cap, which fiche hath bene seene and vewed of most Nobles and Peares of Flaunders, who hath plucked of his skales lyke to dishes and kepes them for a shew and for the more credit hereof, ye shal vnderstand that the. viii. of December the said fiche was brought to the Citie of Antwarpt where it was openly shewed and sene as well of Englishe men as other straungers. what this monster with other vncouth sights sene of late do Prognosticate and signifye vnto vs, that I leaue to thy conjecture (louing Reader) beseching God the Lord and gouernour of all creatures not to deale with vs accoording to our desertes but for Christ his sonnes sake to power his mercye vpon vs and graunt vs Grace to amende and to doe those thinges whiche are pleasaunt and acceptable in his sight thorowe Jesus Christe our Lord. Amen.

As thou this formed fiche doest see
I Chaunged from his state
So many men in eche degree.
From kynd degenerate,
To monsters men are turned now,
Disguised in their raye.
For in theyr fonde inuentions new
They kepe no meane ne staye,
Their maners mad and monsterous,
what thoulde I now discrye
Or yet their cares delitious,
why thoulde I them espye:
If one that lined in thys land,
A forty peares before:
Could be released from the band,
To be as he was yore.
Would he not wonder wonderously,
when he our monsters spied,
In so small tyme so folyship
From auntiant custume slyde:
These monsters therfore God doth sende,
To put vs all in minde.
Such shaples shapes for to amend,
whych now are out of kynd,
Or els the God of kind and shape
wyll shaples vs detest,
And with his plage will punishe vs.
But more to speake I rest.

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